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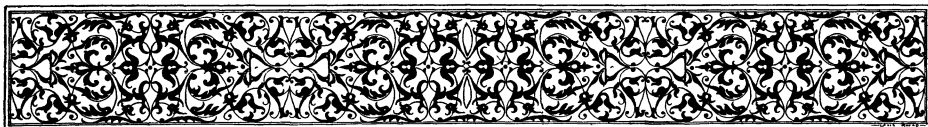
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BENJAMIN ALTMAN — A TRIBUTE

WE have recently received the Tribute to the Memory of Benjamin Altman which was delivered by Dr. B. Sachs, at Temple Emanu-el on Friday, October 10th, and has been since printed, from which the following paragraphs are taken:

"The close friends of Benjamin Altman feel that one of their number should rise, in this sacred house of worship, to render for them in words, however feeble, a tribute of love, of respect, and of deepest gratitude to the memory of a man who was a true lover of his fellow-men, a sterling citizen, a great benefactor, a man of genius and of high intellect, whose life and noble ideals were an inspiration to those who enjoyed the rare privilege of knowing him intimately, and who was an exemplar of the highest virtues to those working side by side with him during many long years.

"Fortunate it was for him and for posterity that he recognized at an early day the wisdom of developing the love that was born in him for the pure and the beautiful. What more natural than that he should have turned from the activities of his everyday life to the cultivation of the fine arts, and that during the last thirty years he found the reward of his labors and his true happiness in that marvelous collection which he was able to gather about him? By the very make-up of his nature, having once entered upon the field of art, he was bound to rise to the front rank among collectors and in many respects to be a unique figure among them. The best and only the best — that was his principle, not because he was anxious to be known to be the possessor of great masterpieces, but because he recognized the educational value of such a collection as his. Having risen

from the ranks of the people, and being intensely American in spirit and in heart, proud of the development of his home city, firmly convinced of the progress the nation would make in the arts if the proper opportunity would be given to its people, it was his aim to gather here the best that could be acquired.

"In striving to improve his collection, he had the rare courage to weed out the lesser numbers until he succeeded in establishing a gallery in which each work was of great merit and had some special significance either for the collector or for the student of art. For Mr. Altman the purchase of a picture was not a mere whim; it was a proposition to be weighed carefully. However great the name of the master, a Rembrandt, a Memling, or a Titian, he had the courage to insist that the work speak for itself. His taste was so fastidious, his judgment so good, that even professed critics often acknowledged the correctness of his views. In some special fields of art, notably in that of Chinese porcelains, he was an expert of the highest order.

"His intimate friends will never forget the many rare evenings in that gallery when, after the cares of a busy day were laid aside, Benjamin Altman sat there, surrounded by the treasures nearest to his heart; never boastful, but intensely happy that he could give pleasure and instruction to those genuinely interested in art.

"The love of art brightened his life. When illness made the days dreary, the arrival of a rare porcelain, or the first sight of an eagerly sought painting, would bring cheer to his heart and make him forget all suffering.

"Whatever Benjamin Altman did, he did well. Call him the prince of merchants, call him a prince among collectors; but let me, who knew him well, call him a prince among men."